

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

APRIL 10, 2007

Proposition 10, The California Children and Families Act was approved by California voters in 1998. This ballot measure established the county commissions now known as First 5. Proposition 10 generates approximately \$700 million a year in revenues and represents an unprecedented public investment in early childhood health and development programs for pregnant women and young children up to five years of age.

Proposition 10 funding is unique because it is based entirely on local planning and decision making tailored to the specific needs of each county. First 5 LA was created by this funding to address our urgent need to attend to the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County.

First 5 LA is committed to optimizing the health and well-being of all children - from before birth until age 5 – by increasing resources, ensuring access to services and improving the abilities of families, communities and service providers to give our children the best possible start in life. First 5 LA is responsible for funding a wide array of programs and initiatives throughout Los Angeles County that address among other things: child health, child development, readiness for school, family literacy, child care, domestic violence prevention, nutrition, and a comprehensive system of care.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

AB 893 (Cox), as introduced on February 23, 2007, would: 1) shift all Proposition 10 revenue away from all First 5 LA (and all First 5 Commissions) and direct it to the statewide California Children and Families Commission to distribute for the purpose of providing health care services to children; 2) ultimately force the closing of First 5 LA because funding for the Commission would no longer be allocated locally, but instead directed only to the statewide Commission; and 3) cause significant harm to the children and families of Los Angeles County by eliminating the comprehensive range of services supported by First 5 LA.

The concern for the health of California's youngest children is shared by all. However, the means of funding health services as provided for in SB 893 will cause greater harm than good.

SB 893 significantly undermines our local decision-making, de-funds a wide range of successful programs, takes resources away from families and young children in greatest need, and is a clear attempt to thwart the will of the voters of this State.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Oppose SB 893 (Cox);
2. Instruct the Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to the Governor, Assembly Speaker, Senate President Pro Tempore, the Honorable Sheila Kuehl, Chair of the Senate Health Committee, and the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation expressing the Board's opposition to this bill; and
3. Instruct our Sacramento Advocates to pursue this position in opposition to this bill on behalf of the County.